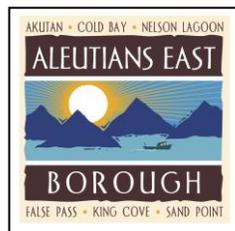




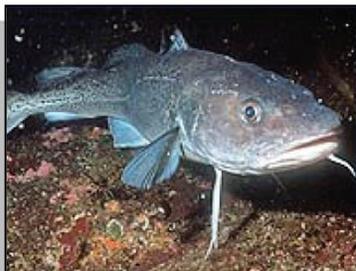
Fish News

Feb. 13, 2015

State-Water Pacific Cod Pot Fishery Pre-season Teleconference Meeting on February 27th



The Aleutians East Borough, in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, will sponsor a State-waters Pacific Cod pre-season teleconference meeting for fishermen at 10 a.m. on Friday, February 27th. The meeting will be moderated by ADF&G Groundfish Manager Mark Stichert. The teleconference will be recorded and archived online for any fishermen who are unable to attend.



AEB & ADF&G will sponsor a state-waters P. cod pre-season teleconference meeting for fishermen at 10 a.m. on Feb. 27th.

The South Peninsula State-waters Pacific Cod season for pot gear will open March 7th. Fishermen can now register for the pot cod season and obtain buoy tags, registration forms and fishery management plans at Peter Pan Seafoods and the Trident plant in Sand Point, the PPSF plant in King Cove and the False Pass City Office.

Stichert will also be able to give updates on the status of

Tanner crab and other items of interest at the pre-season meeting. AEB Natural Resources Director Ernie Weiss will be in Sand Point for the meeting, to then travel to King Cove. Weiss will be available in each community to work with fishermen who may wish to submit Board of Fisheries proposals. The deadline to submit proposals for the upcoming Board of Fish meeting cycle, including for the February 23 – March 3, 2016 Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands/Chignik Finfish meeting, is April 10.



Stichert also plans to provide updates on the status of Tanner crab and other items of interest at the meeting.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council Actions - February 2015

By Ernie Weiss, AEB Natural Resources Director



Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands halibut bycatch dominated the NPFMC February agenda. The meeting followed close on the heels of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) annual meeting in

January, when the IPHC approved catch limits above the recommended Blue Line, then urged the NPFMC to reduce BSAI bycatch limits by 50% or more. The NPFMC took initial action to do just that after an historic joint IPHC/NPFMC meeting during the week. Final Action on BSAI halibut bycatch limits is scheduled for

the June NPFMC meeting in Sitka. The Council also initiated a discussion paper to look at comprehensive halibut bycatch management in the BSAI, including abundance-based management.



Final action on BSAI halibut bycatch limits is scheduled for the Council's June meeting in Sitka.

The NPFMC also received a presentation on the National Marine Sanctuary nomination process. NOAA recently declared that the proposed Aleutian Islands National Marine Sanctuary nomination was not sufficient and lacked local support, thanks to the many letters and resolutions of opposition from regional groups, including AEB Assembly Resolution 15-13.

The Council decided to just receive another report on GOA tendering activities in one year at the February 2016 meeting. A completely separate action to allow observers to on and offload from tenders has not yet been scheduled. Also, the NPFMC Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod Allocation and Delivery Requirement action, which would require some shore-based deliveries to Adak and Atka, moved forward for final action at the April meeting in Anchorage.



The Council passed a motion to initiate a discussion paper to look at the impacts of including all GOA trawl vessels in the 100% observer coverage category. Photo courtesy: NOAA.

During Staff Tasking, the Council passed a motion 9-2 to initiate a discussion paper to look at the impacts of putting all GOA trawl vessels in the 100% observer coverage category. Council members stated that the paper would inform the discussion pertinent to any future action on the GOA trawl bycatch management (GOATBM) program. While the motion is a separate stand-alone action, full observer coverage on all trawl vessels has been part of the GOATBM discussion from the beginning. Local trawl fishermen believe increased observer coverage will be a huge financial burden and continue to urge the Council to expedite efforts to employ electronic monitoring options.

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